

Mr. Cline

George Denny (filling in for Tom Hughes) called late last night and asked for authority to release to the House Appropriations Committee classified information (up through Secret) on voyages to Cuba from Soviet ports. The Foreign Aid Appropriations Act provides for penalties against nations whose shipping engages in this trade and the Committee seeks this information in connection with consideration of the foreign aid bill. The bill is not having an easy time.

Denny understands that the Agency's position is to provide such information orally, but not to provide it in writing. The reason for this is that any picture not based on CODEWORD information is incomplete and distorted.

I understand from ORR that they reviewed a list of shipping from State-AID yesterday. The list is Secret, but partially derived from CODEWORD. The list was also reviewed by (SPINT) and the judgment given that the list could be presented orally and shown to members of Congress, but could not be left with the Committee. / This is probably what Denny is talking about.

State has put us in the middle on this since the Agency can be blamed for not releasing information to Congress. Earlier, State wanted to release information derived from Navy cables, but Navy took the position that CIA would have to approve such action.

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I talked to [] of Larry Houston's staff, and Larry may raise the problem at the morning meeting. Denny wants to know our views sometime this morning.

*Your pigeon. I see no need
to take to DCI @*

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